

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the currently pending Claims 1 and 9-16 with the amended Claims 1 and 9-16, which are set forth below: (Appendix A, which is enclosed herewith, shows how these claims were amended.)

1. (Amended) A butterfly damper comprising:  
an inner circumferential frame;  
an outer circumferential frame; and  
at least one arm member having one end connected to said outer circumferential frame and an other end connected to said inner circumferential frame,  
wherein:  
said at least one arm member has substantially a rectangular cross section with four curved corners having a predetermined radius of curvature, in a perpendicular direction to a longitudinal direction of said at least one arm member.

9. (Amended) The butterfly damper as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:  
said outer circumferential frame has opposite end surfaces and an inner peripheral surface, said inner peripheral surface being connected to said opposite end surfaces to form opposite connecting circumferential edge portions; and  
said one end of said at least one arm member is connected to a portion of said inner peripheral surface of said outer circumferential frame, said portion excluding said opposite connecting circumferential edge portions so that a thickness of said at least one arm member is smaller than a thickness of said outer circumferential frame.

10. (Amended) The butterfly damper as claimed in Claim 2, wherein: said outer circumferential frame has opposite end surfaces and an inner peripheral surface, said inner peripheral surface being connected to said opposite end surfaces to form opposite connecting circumferential edge portions; and

12 said one end of said at least one arm member is connected to a portion of said inner peripheral surface of said outer circumferential frame, said portion excluding said opposite connecting circumferential edge portions so that a thickness of said at least one arm member is smaller than a thickness of said outer circumferential frame.

11. (Amended) The butterfly damper as claimed in Claim 3, wherein: said outer circumferential frame has opposite end surfaces and an inner peripheral surface, said inner peripheral surface being connected to said opposite end surfaces to form opposite connecting circumferential edge portions; and

12 said one end of said at least one arm member is connected to a portion of said inner peripheral surface of said outer circumferential frame, said portion excluding said opposite connecting circumferential edge portions so that a thickness of said at least one arm member is smaller than a thickness of said outer circumferential frame.

12. (Amended) The butterfly damper as claimed in Claim 4, wherein: said outer circumferential frame has opposite end surfaces and an inner peripheral surface, said inner peripheral surface being connected to said opposite end surfaces to form opposite connecting circumferential edge portions; and

said one end of said at least one arm member is connected to a portion of said inner peripheral surface of said outer circumferential frame, said portion excluding said opposite connecting circumferential edge portions so that a thickness of said at least one arm member is smaller than a thickness of said outer circumferential frame.

13. (Amended) The butterfly damper as claimed in Claim 5, wherein:  
said outer circumferential frame has opposite end surfaces and an inner peripheral surface, said inner peripheral surface being connected to said opposite end surfaces to form opposite connecting circumferential edge portions; and

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said one end of said at least one arm member is connected to a portion of said inner peripheral surface of said outer circumferential frame, said portion excluding said opposite connecting circumferential edge portions so that a thickness of said at least one arm member is smaller than a thickness of said outer circumferential frame.

14. (Amended) The butterfly damper as claimed in Claim 6, wherein:  
said outer circumferential frame has opposite end surfaces and an inner peripheral surface, said inner peripheral surface being connected to said opposite end surfaces to form opposite connecting circumferential edge portions; and

said one end of said at least one arm member is connected to a portion of said inner peripheral surface of said outer circumferential frame, said portion excluding said opposite connecting circumferential edge portions so that a thickness of said at least one arm member is smaller than a thickness of said outer circumferential frame.

15. (Amended) The butterfly damper as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:  
said outer circumferential frame has opposite end surfaces and an  
inner peripheral surface, said inner peripheral surface being connected to  
~~said opposite end surfaces to form opposite connecting circumferential edge~~  
portions; and

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said one end of said at least one arm member is connected to a portion  
of said inner peripheral surface of said outer circumferential frame, said  
portion excluding said opposite connecting circumferential edge portions so  
that a thickness of said at least one arm member is smaller than a thickness  
of said outer circumferential frame.

16. (Amended) The butterfly damper as claimed in Claim 8, wherein:  
said outer circumferential frame has opposite end surfaces and an  
inner peripheral surface, said inner peripheral surface being connected to  
said opposite end surfaces to form opposite connecting circumferential edge  
portions; and

said one end of said at least one arm member is connected to a portion  
of said inner peripheral surface of said outer circumferential frame, said  
portion excluding said opposite connecting circumferential edge portions so  
that a thickness of said at least one arm member is smaller than a thickness  
of said outer circumferential frame.

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